

questions beginning with the word "discuss," with the idea of drawing out the candidates' real knowledge, are very often seen. Under such conditions quiz compend answers will not suffice. As stated before, the book under review should be a very useful guide for one with a complete medical education who desires to refresh his memory.

ALDERSON.

Text-book of Organic Chemistry for Students of Medicine and Biology. By E. V. McCollum, Ph. D. New York: Macmillan. 1916. Price \$2.25.

This work is an academic guide for a semester in physiologic chemistry. Emphasis is placed upon biologic phenomenon rather than synthesis. Technical matters and laboratory manipulations are not considered. The subject in hand begins with the simpler saturated fatty hydrocarbons and broadens with presentation of the alcohols, ethers and aldehydes before the chapters on the more complex fatty acids, waxes and paraffins are reached. The carbohydrates are considered in detail with the chemical changes involved in the fermentation of the sugars. The benzines and their derivatives are also extensively considered. There are short chapters on certain alkaloids and organic arsenic compounds. Only a limited discussion of the proteins is given.

This is an admirable work, is compact, liberally indexed and confined strictly to the theoretic discussion of the topics presented. There is unfortunately an impression given the reviewer that in the writer's zeal to restrict himself, a certain loss of personality and completeness arises. A consistent reasoning is shown and every effort is made to simplify apparently complex organic chemical changes, and the student is not compelled to burden his memory with chemical formulas or seek other references for the thorough grasp of the subjects at hand. E. A. V.

Impotency, Sterility and Artificial Impregnation. By Frank P. Davis, Ph., M. D. Pp. 135. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1917.

The author says in his introduction that: "The production of new books for the physician appears to be limited only by the invention of titles. Many of the books contain but little new material." He says further: "I am well aware that there are a number of pretentious works on sexual subjects, but none that I have read fulfilled my wants." Our expectations were great when we read on page 10: "I have attempted to blaze out a new trail, and have established some landmarks," but our disappointment was greater yet, because in the little book we found not even the customary "little new material," we found nothing new, no blazed trails, and only a few old landmarks.

True, we are told a few new things, but they are not material; for instance, on page 14 the author says that: "The sexual ability of the male depends upon the erection of certain muscular organs." Ella Wheeler Wilcox celebrates her first appearance as an authority on the subject, and the author does not seem to know that spermatozoa is the plural of spermatozoon.

We must agree with the author when he says on page 106: "Gold has long held the reputation of exerting a specific action upon the sexual organs," only we cannot believe that gold does much good when taken internally. V. G. V.

The Medical Clinics of North America. Volume 1, No. 2. The Philadelphia Number, July, 1917. Octavo of 269 pages, 28 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Com-

pany, 1917. Published by-monthly. Price per year: Paper, \$10; cloth, \$14.

Contents.

Aortitis, Thomas McCrae; classification chronic nephritis and relation of infection to kidney diseases, Alfred Stengel; cardiac disease and digitalis, H. A. Hare; aortic aneurysm, leukemia, Joseph Sailer; progressive myocarditis, etc., D. Riesman; diagnosis pulmonary tuberculosis by Roentgen ray, H. K. Pancoast; angina pectoris and allied conditions, A. A. Stevens; mechanical disorders and irregularities cardiac contraction, R. V. Patterson; gastric infection, M. E. Rehfuess. ulcerative endocarditis, etc., J. Daland; diagnostic value examinations cerebro-spinal fluid, J. A. Kolmer; auricular fibrillation, long duration, J. H. Musser Jr.; poliomyelitis, T. H. Weisenburg; essentials and limitations of average diet, O. H. P. Pepper; causes of reaction after salvarsan, J. F. Schamberg; osteitis deformans, E. H. Funk.

Text-book of First Aid and Emergency Treatment. By A. C. Burnham, M. D. Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febiger, 1917.

It is a very welcome commentary on the almost universal demand for first aid instruction in the United States that such a book as this has been brought out. Dr. Burnham sees clearly the educational and cultural aspects of first aid instruction quite as well as he sees the practical application of the principles of first aid to the commoner emergencies of daily life. Regarded from this point of view, this book will find its best use in the hands of the instructor, to whom it will prove a mine of inspiration in lecturing. For the lay reader, one feels that the text is a little too technical and comprehensive in its scope; and the treatment occasionally so elaborate that the purely temporary and transient nature of first aid may be lost sight of. To enumerate categorically all the errors of omission and commission in this very earnest and honest book would be doing the author a great injustice, but the reviewer feels that picric acid is still entitled to mention in the case of burns and that faith in the tourniquet as a controller of hemorrhages should not be undermined. On the other hand, too much cannot be said in favor of the excellent way in which Dr. Burnham has grouped the various branches of the work so as to correlate as many facts as possible and also the way in which the diagnoses are logically deduced from the evidence furnished by patient and surroundings. We have here a book that will be a most valuable aid to all instructors in this special field. But it cannot be unhesitatingly recommended for use among the laity, except with the understanding that it is to serve as a text to be lectured from by a competent instructor. G. H. T.

Correspondence

FROM A BELGIAN- SOLDIER.* (Translation.)

At the Front, Sept. 18, 1917.

Miss:—I am going by these lines, my humble unknown, to thank you for your generosity. I yesterday received, by means of a committee, a box of cigars in which was a card. On this card I found your address. As it is to you I owe these excellent cigars, I have no wish to be an ingrate, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

If you could know how agreeable it is for us Belgians, and for me in particular, to learn that very far across the seas there are charitable souls

*See editorial comment.